



U.S. Immigration  
and Customs  
Enforcement

# News Release

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## **3 MS-13 GANG MEMBERS NABBED BY ICE AND LONG ISLAND GANG TASK FORCE**

*Criminal histories include possession of a firearm and possession of a controlled substance*

**LONG ISLAND** – Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Special Agent-in-Charge Martin D. Ficke announced that three dangerous MS-13 gang members were arrested here yesterday by ICE agents and officers assigned to the Long Island Gang Task Force.

Among the arrested was Hugo Morieira-Rivas, 22, of Brentwood, Urias Rodriguez-Paz, 21, of Bayshore and Juan Arevalo, 21, also of Bayshore. Morieira-Rivas and Arevalo are citizens of El Salvador, while Rodriguez-Paz is a citizen of Honduras. Two have prior criminal histories including arrests that range from possession of a firearm and disorderly conduct to possession of a controlled substance and unlawful assembly.

These arrests are the latest enforcement actions under Operation Community Shield, an ICE anti-gang initiative launched in February to disrupt, dismantle and assist in the criminal prosecution of violent gangs by employing the full range of authorities available to ICE. The initial target of Operation Community Shield was MS-13, which is one of the largest and most violent street gangs in the country.

“We are committed to protecting the innocent and our Community Shield initiative and our membership in the Long Island Gang Task Force are examples of this commitment,” said Ficke. “We are putting gang members on notice. We will not tolerate your violence and criminal activity and we will continue to work with local law enforcement agencies to that end.”

All of those arrested yesterday are in ICE custody awaiting the outcome of their cases. Morieira-Rivas and Rodriguez-Paz have been placed in removal proceedings. Arevalo has an outstanding order of removal and his deportation is imminent.

In May 2005, ICE expanded Operation Community Shield to include all criminal street gangs and prison gangs with foreign-born members. With the launch of this second phase, ICE’s Operation Community Shield aims to ensure that gang members have no safe haven in our nation’s communities.

**#ICE#**

*U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) was established in March 2003 as the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security. ICE is comprised of five integrated divisions that form a 21st century law enforcement agency with broad responsibilities for a number of key homeland security priorities*